Appl. No. : 10/005,884
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining the ~~presence or~~ possibility of an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of immune complex disease, systemic lupus erythematosus and arthritis, and/or the ~~presence or~~ possibility of cardiovascular disease associated with a protein selected from the group consisting of myosin, oxidized LDL and ß-2 glycoprotein-1 with autoimmune disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a level of a first set of antibodies directed against a plurality of different antigens, and/or corresponding recombinant antigens or synthetic peptides, said first set of antibodies comprising myosin antibody, oxidized LDL antibody, heat shock protein-60 antibody, and β-2 glycoprotein-1 antibody in a sample from said patient; and

b) determining a level of a second set of antibodies directed against a plurality of different antigens and/or corresponding recombinant antigens or synthetic peptides, said second set of antibodies comprising lupus peptide antibody, arthritis peptide antibody ~~and, immune complexes~~, lupus peptide antibody in an immune complex and arthritis peptide antibody in an immune complex in a sample from said patient; and

c) comparing the level of antibodies determined in steps a) and b) with normal levels of said antibodies obtained from an average level of antibodies from a set of healthy control individuals, wherein

higher than normal levels of ~~any of~~ both the first set and second set of said plurality of antibodies indicate the ~~presence or~~ possibility of autoimmune disease and cardiovascular disease, wherein said cardiovascular disease is associated with the presence of said first set of antigens; and

higher than normal levels of the second set, but not the first set, of said plurality of antibodies indicates the ~~presence or~~ possibility of autoimmune disease, ongoing pathology or early pathogenic reaction; and

normal levels of the first set and the second set of said plurality of antibodies ~~indicates optimal conditions~~ indicate a healthy control patient.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the measured antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from serum.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the measured antibodies are selected from the group consisting of IgM, IgG, and IgA.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus or arthritis.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus and wherein the lupus antibodies can bind to SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is arthritis and wherein the arthritis antibodies can bind to SEQ ID NO:7.

12. (Canceled)